Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #16 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 13 August 2021

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at **@bugdocisin** on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, stated that he "checked some beans across my counties this week and worm numbers were still low in fields I checked. I found several cotton fields where boll injury was exceeding threshold numbers for stink bugs."

Upcoming Field Day

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

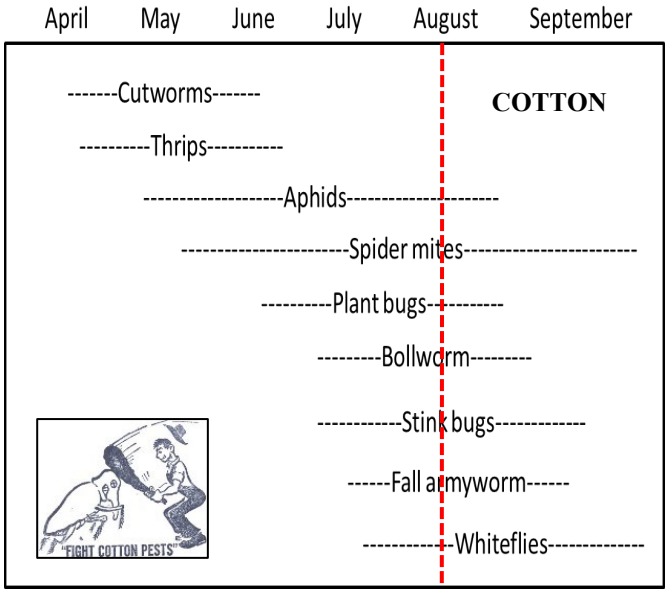
Edisto REC Peanut, Horticulture, and Agronomic Crop Field Day
In-Person September 2, 2021, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817

We will offer an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021. Registration will be from 8:00 to 9:00 AM. The morning program will cover peanuts and horticulture crops, with cotton, soybeans, and corn covered after lunch. The field day will conclude by 4:00 PM. A link for more details: http://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/files/2021/08/2021-Peanut-and-Row-Crop-Field-Day-Announcement_Final.pdf

Cotton Situation

As of 8 August 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 99% of the crop is squaring, compared with 94% last week, 86% at this time last year, and 93% for the 5-year average. About 79% of the crop is setting bolls, compared with 66% last week, 63% at this time last year, and 71% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 15% excellent, 66% good, 19% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

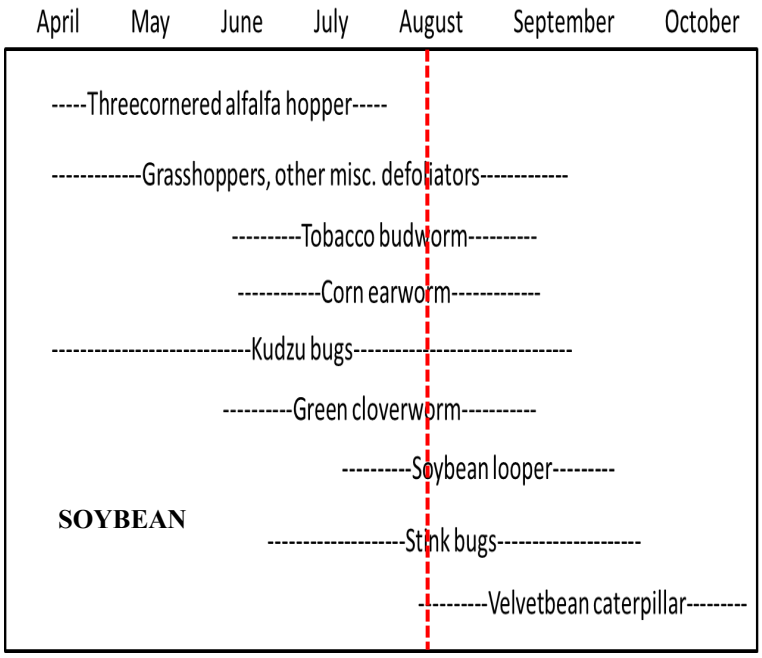


I am stating it again this week – in South Carolina, it is going to be stink bugs, bollworm, and spider mites – in that order of importance – from here until the end of the "insect season" in cotton. Captures of bollworm moths in my pheromone traps here at the Edisto REC increased slightly this past week, indicating that the flight is still ongoing. I expect numbers of bollworm moths and oviposition to drop off next week, but we should see another generation peak in late August. See my comments from last week for a good example of how to scout for bollworm. Do notice any moths you flush in the field the rest of August, as any noticeably increased activity from moths can indicate the next generation out there laying eggs. I observed some injury to 2-gene Bt cotton this week, but most samples remained below treatment threshold (5% square or boll injury). The photos below show a bollworm making it into a small boll under the bloom tag I removed and some older injury from bollworm showing a damaged boll tip that will likely lead to a hard-locked boll with no yield. I think that most of the 2- and 3-gene Bt cotton is fine.

Right now, most efforts regarding insect management in cotton here in the Southeast should start with stink bugs. We are well into "stink bug month" (August) now. Stink bugs are the number one insect pest group of cotton in South Carolina. See the previous two issues of the newsletter for more information on boll-injury thresholds. Here is what I observed this week while sampling cotton plots, as most stink bugs have now moved out of corn into some other crop. I have observed more green stink bugs than I have seen in recent years (eggs and adults pictured below), but I have seen many brown stink bugs and mating pairs of southern green stink bugs also this week. Stink bug month is definitely 'on'.

Soybean Situation

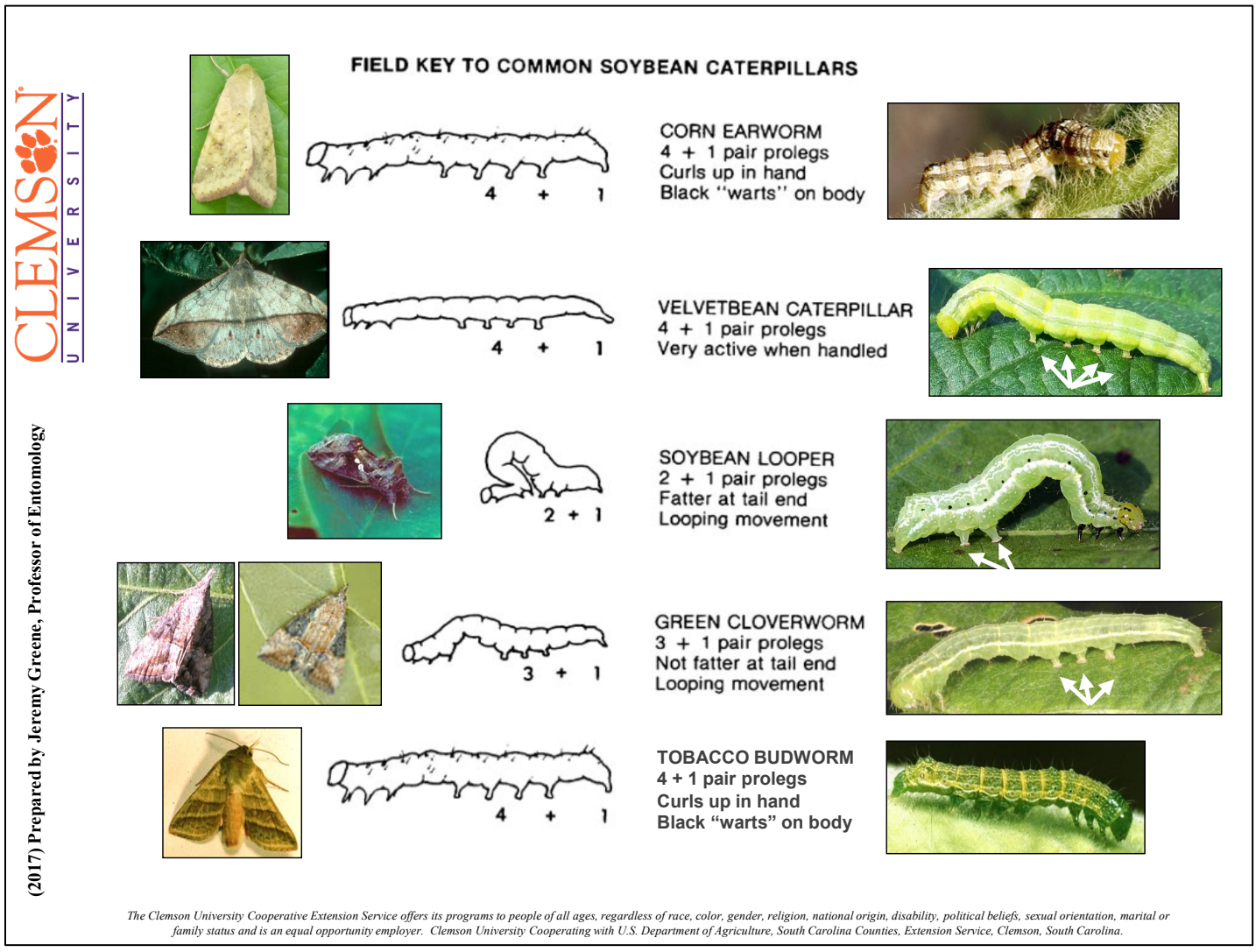
As of 8 August 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 65% of the crop has bloomed, compared with 60% the previous week, 55% at this time last year, and 55% for the 5-year average. About 20% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 16% the previous week, 24% at this time last year, and 19% for the 5-year average. The conditions of the crop were 12% excellent, 82% good, 6% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



Soybean Insects

Again this week, we are seeing more soybean loopers in soybeans, and podworm numbers are also more noticeable. Kudzu bugs and threecornered alfalfa hoppers are in the mix at varying levels, and stink bugs have also become prominent as the crop sets pods. I easily found redbanded, brown (BSB), green, and brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) in soybeans we sampled today. Here are a couple of side-by-side photos of brown (left) and brown marmorated stink bug (right). Notice the light bands on the antennae and legs of BMSB. BSB does not have these.

As moth activity increases, deposited eggs will yield caterpillar pests on soybeans. It is good skill to be able to identify adult moths flying around in fields. Use this chart to study moth and caterpillar identification.



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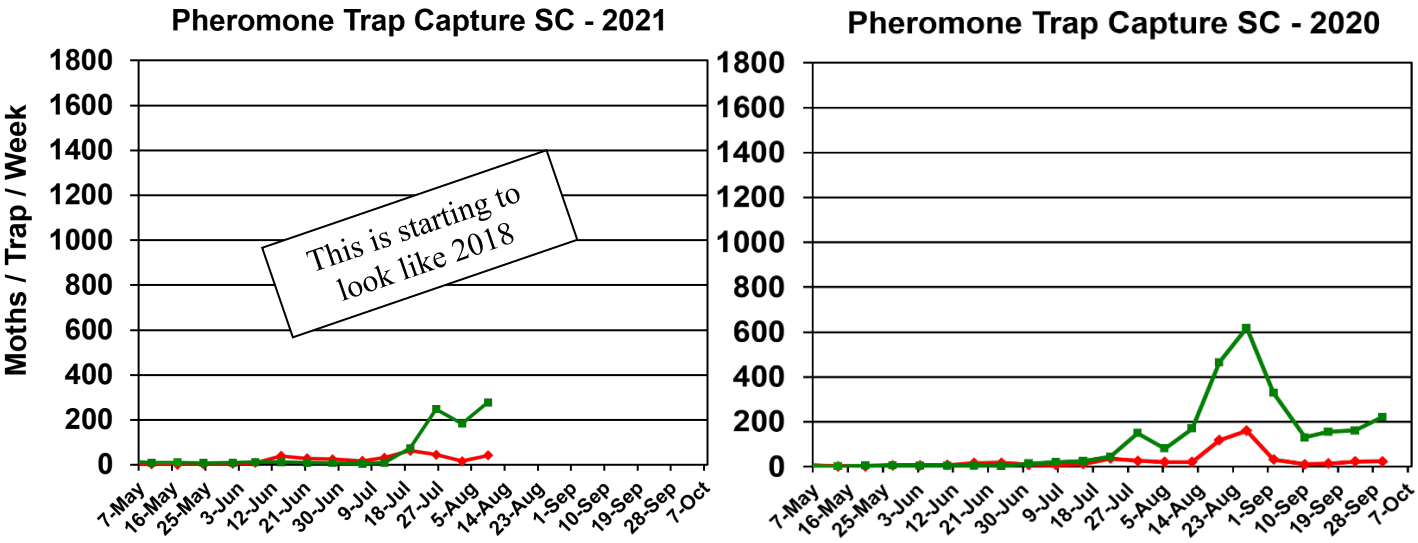
Public Service Activities

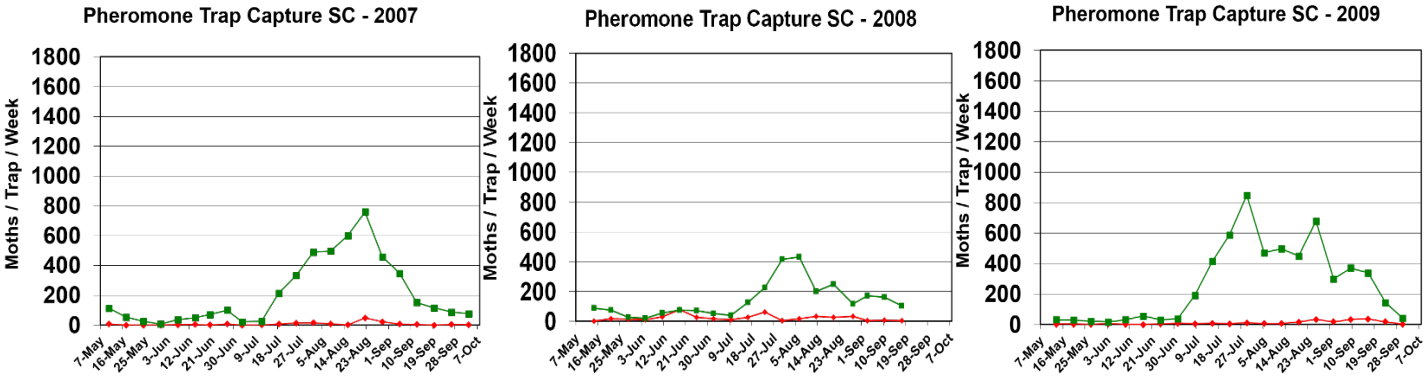
The mention of any commercial product in this publication does not imply its endorsement by Clemson University over other products not named, nor does the omission imply that they are not satisfactory.

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state but are useful for general trends.



Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:



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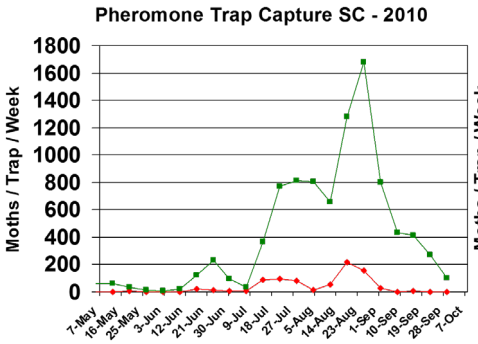

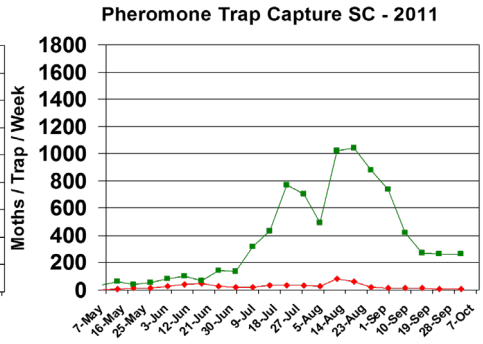

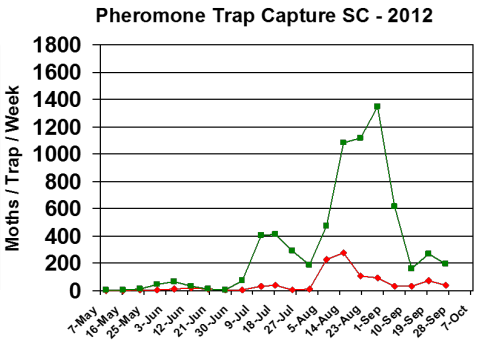

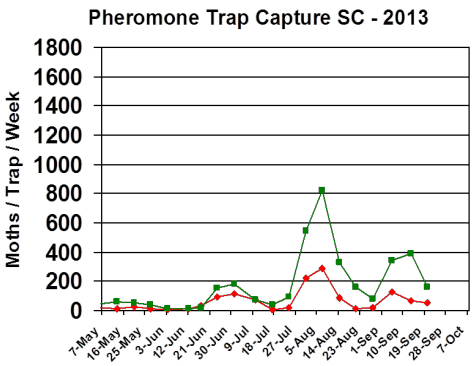

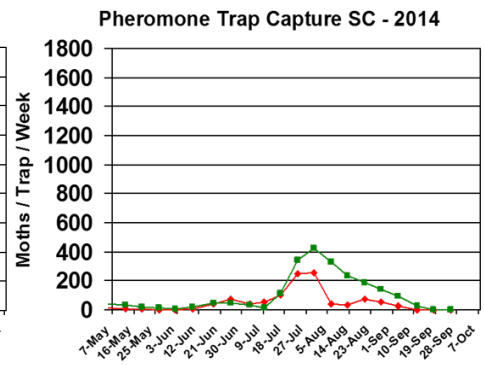

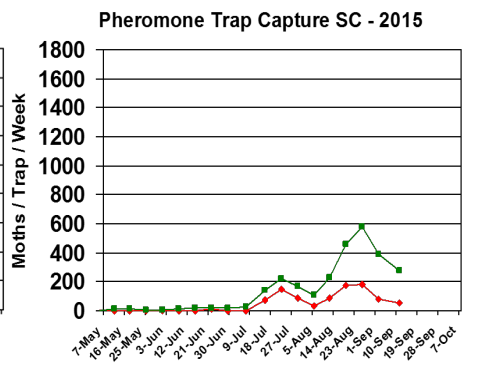

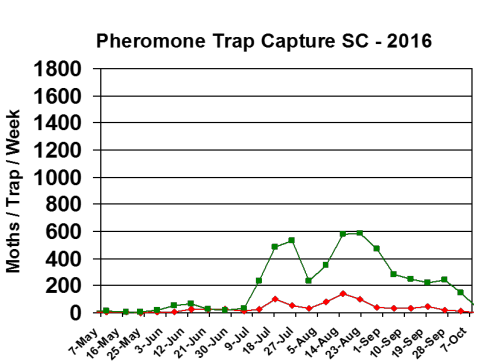

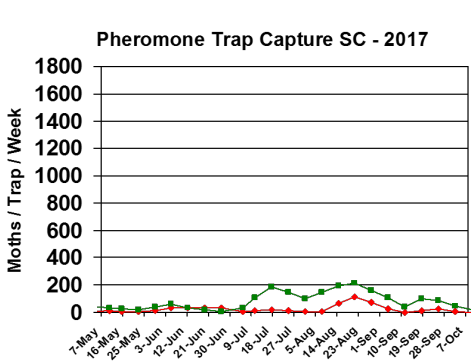

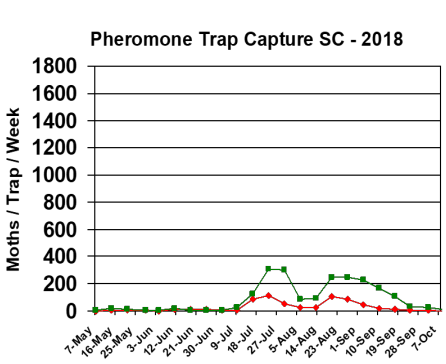

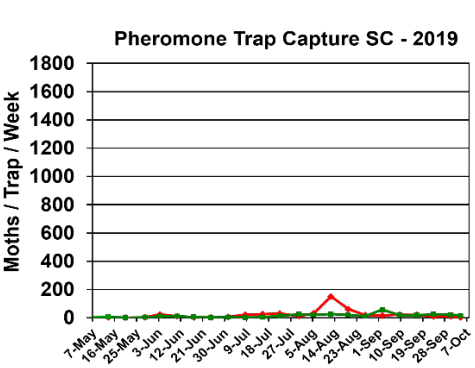

Pest Management Handbook – 2021

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

South Carolina Crops Blog

The SC Crops Blog contains content about production of major row crops at the following link, if you want more information: https://blogs.clemson.edu/sccrops/
Archived issues of the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter can be viewed at a convenient link on the SCCrops page. Contact **Dr. Michael Plumblee**, if you have any questions about the blog.

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"

Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology

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